

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 10, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. A *Request for One-Month Extension of Time* is submitted herewith, which extends the period for response to December 10, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 9, 2000 and May 2, 2002. However, the Applicants have not received acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 2, 1999. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 2, 1999.

Claims 7-9 and 45-60 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 45-60 have been withdrawn from consideration and new claims 61-63 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. Claim 7 has been amended herewith to better recite the features of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 7-9 and 61-63 are now pending, of which claims 7 and 61 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant appreciates Examiner Schillinger's time in conducting a personal interview in the subject application on November 15, 2004. During the interview, Applicant discussed the present invention and the outstanding rejection based on U.S. Patent 6,087,679 to Yamazaki. The present invention is directed to a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device that includes, among others, the sequential steps of crystallizing an amorphous silicon film by a heat treatment; promoting crystallinity of the silicon film by irradiation of laser light or intense light; and adding an impurity to the semiconductor film to form at least one impurity region. As noted during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that Yamazaki '679 fails to disclose at least these claimed sequence of steps. In order to more clearly recite the sequential order of

steps, independent claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner during the interview to include alphabetical designations before each claimed step.

The Official Action rejects claims 7-9 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,087,679 to Yamazaki et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the Official Action has not established an anticipation rejection. As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Official Action appears to contend that Yamazaki teaches a method comprising the step of "promoting crystallinity by irradiation of laser light or intense light after removing the film comprising the catalytic element" (see column 5, lines 35-40). Initially, it is noted that this cited portion of Yamazaki does not appear to disclose any irradiation of laser light or intense light, but instead appears to be directed to heat treatment. Therefore, for the first reason, it is respectfully submitted that Yamazaki cannot anticipate the claims of the subject application.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Yamazaki fails to disclose the claimed sequential steps of crystallizing an amorphous silicon film by a heat treatment; promoting crystallinity of the silicon film by irradiation of laser light or intense light; and adding an impurity to the semiconductor film to form at least one impurity region. Claim 7 has been amended herewith to further clarify the recitation of the sequential steps. For this further reason, claim 7 cannot be anticipated by Yamazaki and reconsideration is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789